

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN THE CORK EXAMINER MAY 18, 1978

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL APPEARED IN THE CORK EXAMINER
MAY 18, 1978 UNDER HEADING IN RETURN FOR PEARL HARBOUR:

ARMS SALESMEN CLASSIFY THEIR GOODS UNDER TWO DISTINCT
HEADINGS: OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE. IT IS WRONG TO SELL
OFFENSIVE WEAPONS BUT RIGHT TO SELL DEFENSIVE ONES,
THEY ARGUE. THEIR METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION BOILS
DOWN TO THIS: OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ARE THOSE OWNED BY
ONE'S ENEMIES; A FRIEND'S ARMS ARE ALWAYS DEFENSIVE.
IF AN ENEMY HAS AN OFFENSIVE F-15 FIGHTER, ONE SELLS
A DEFENSIVE F-15 TO A FRIEND TO EVEN THINGS UP.

THAT IS THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE EXTRAORDINARY US
DEAL BY WHICH FIGHTERS ARE TO BE SOLD SIMULTANEOUSLY
TO ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. BUT WHERE THE
REASONING BREAKS DOWN IS THAT WHILE ALL THREE
COUNTRIES ARE FRIENDS OF THE US, THEY ARE ENEMIES OF
ONE ANOTHER.

PRESIDENT CARTER TIED THE THREE DEALS UP IN ONE
PACKAGE IN A PIECE OF POLITICAL BLACKMAIL AS SHALLOW
AS IT WAS CLEVER, OUT OF DESPERATION TO PROVE THAT HE
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COULD GET SOMETHING THROUGH CONGRESS.

RATHER THAN HALT THE SALE TO ISRAEL, THE SENATE
APPROVED THE PACKAGE, THUS ASSURING THAT THE SAUDIS
WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY OIL TO THE US AND ACCEPT
PAYMENT IN DOLLARS. THE CRISIS OF CONSCIENCE WILL
COME IF ANOTHER WAR BREAKS OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH

US PLANES SHOOTING ONE ANOTHER DOWN.

IF AMERICANS CAN SWALLOW THAT DEAL, THEY MAY BAULK
AT THE NEXT THE PENTAGON IS PLANNING: TO SELL OVER
1,100M. POUNDS WORTH OF FIGHTERS TO JAPAN. SOME OF
THEM MAY REMEMBER PEARL HARBOUR. KRENE

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